

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please AMEND the claims as follows.

I. (Currently Amended) In a mobile station including a preferred roaming list, a method for an efficient selection system for registration/acquisition of wireless communications systems that avoids time consuming acquisition of a signal that takes up to about 20 seconds, comprising:

a) maintaining a list of unusable wireless communications systems, each entry of a wireless communications system in the list of unusable wireless communications systems including a system identifier and corresponding avoidance criterion that is equal to a current time plus an avoidance duration time for not using the wireless communications system, wherein at least one of said unusable wireless communications systems is included on the preferred roaming list;

b) selecting a wireless communications system from the preferred roaming list of wireless communications systems in accordance with a predetermined system acquisition sequence, each entry of a wireless communications system in the preferred roaming list including a system identifier;

c) determining whether the selected wireless communications system from the preferred roaming list is a useable wireless communications system or an unusable wireless communications system; by using system avoidance data and corresponding avoidance criteria to identify unusable systems; adding systems to system avoidance data in response to a communications failure, and removing systems from the system avoidance data when correspondence avoidance criteria is no longer satisfied;

d) ~~attempting to acquire and register~~ acquiring and registering with the selected wireless communications system when the selected wireless communications system is determined to be a useable wireless communications system; and

e) repeating the step of selecting, before attempting to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system, when the selected wireless communications system is determined to be an unusable wireless communications system,

when a system identifier for the selected wireless communications system matches a system identifier in the list of unusable wireless communications systems and when avoidance criterion corresponding to the system identifier in the list of unusable wireless communications systems is satisfied.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein each system identifier identifies at least one wireless communications system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein each system identifier includes a frequency.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein each system identifier includes a SID/NID pair that uniquely identifies a wireless communications system.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of maintaining comprises the steps of:

detecting a communications failure with a wireless communications system;
and

adding a new entry to the list of unusable wireless communications systems, the new entry including an identifier of the failed wireless communications system and corresponding avoidance criterion.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of maintaining further comprises the steps of:

assigning an avoidance duration to the detected communications failure; and
calculating an avoidance time before which the failed wireless communications system is unusable, wherein the avoidance criterion includes the avoidance time.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the avoidance criterion is satisfied if the stored avoidance time is greater than the current time.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of assigning an avoidance duration comprises the steps of:

maintaining a list of detectable communications failures, each detectable communications failure having a corresponding avoidance duration;
locating the detected communications failure in the list of communications failures; and
using the corresponding avoidance duration in the step of calculating.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of detecting includes the step of detecting failed attempts to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the steps of selecting and attempting are repeated until the mobile station successfully acquires and registers with the selected wireless communications system.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the wireless communications systems are selected from the preferred systems list in a predetermined order of desirability.

12. (Previously presented) In a mobile station, a method for marking wireless communications systems as unusable wireless communications systems, comprising the steps of:

- maintaining a list of unusable wireless communications systems, each entry of a wireless communications system in the list of unusable wireless communications systems including a system identifier and corresponding avoidance criterion that is equal to a current time plus an avoidance duration time for not using the wireless communications system;
- selecting a wireless communications system from a preferred roaming list;
- detecting a communications failure associated with a wireless communications system selected from the preferred roaming list; and
- adding a record to the list of unusable wireless communications systems, the added record including an identifier of the wireless communications system selected from the preferred roaming list system and corresponding avoidance criterion based on the detected communications failure, wherein the wireless communications system is selected from the preferred roaming list but is unusable while the corresponding avoidance criterion is satisfied, which is determined before attempting to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein each system identifier is associated with at least one wireless communications system.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the step of adding comprises the steps of:

- assigning an avoidance duration to the detected communications failure;
- calculating an avoidance time before which the failed wireless communications system is unusable, and
- storing the avoidance time as the corresponding avoidance criterion.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein the step of assigning an avoidance duration comprises the step of:

maintaining a list of communications failures, each communications failure having a corresponding avoidance duration;

locating the detected communications failure in the list of communications failures; and

using the corresponding avoidance duration in the step of calculating.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 wherein at least two avoidance durations stored in the list of communications failures have different values.

17. (Previously Presented) A mobile station comprising:

a memory storing a preferred roaming list of wireless communications systems, the preferred roaming list including a first plurality of system identifiers and corresponding acquisition parameters for corresponding wireless communications systems; and

processing circuitry adapted to create and maintain a list of unusable wireless communications systems, the list of unusable wireless communications systems being stored in the memory and including a second plurality of system identifiers and corresponding avoidance criterion for not using corresponding unusable wireless communications systems, wherein at least one of said unusable wireless communications systems is included on the preferred roaming list,

wherein a selected wireless communications system from the preferred roaming list is determined to be an unusable wireless communications system, before attempting to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system, when a system identifier for the selected wireless communications system matches a system identifier in the list of unusable wireless communications systems and when avoidance criterion that is equal to a

current time plus an avoidance duration time corresponding to the system identifier in the list of unusable wireless communications systems is satisfied.; said processing circuitry being further adapted to add systems to system avoidance data in response to a communications failure, and remove systems from the system avoidance data when corresponding avoidance criteria is no longer satisfied.

18. (Previously Presented) The mobile station of Claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry comprises:

a system determination unit adapted to select wireless communications systems from the preferred roaming list in accordance with a predetermined system acquisition procedure and attempt to acquire selected wireless communications systems that are usable.

19. (Previously Presented) The mobile station of Claim 18 wherein the processing circuitry is further adapted to detect communications failures with selected wireless communications systems, and add an entry to the list of unusable wireless communications systems in response to a detected communications failure, the entry including a system identifier for the selected wireless communications system and an avoidance time, the avoidance time indicating a duration during which the selected wireless communications system is unusable.

20. (Original) The mobile station of Claim 19 further including a clock, wherein the memory further includes a list of communications failures, each communications failure having a corresponding avoidance duration, and wherein the avoidance time equals a current time as measured by the clock plus the avoidance duration for the corresponding communications failure.

21. (Previously Presented) The mobile station of Claim 20 wherein the processing circuitry is further adapted to delete an entry from the list of unusable wireless communications systems when the corresponding avoidance time is less than the current time.

22. (Previously Presented) A processor readable media for storing instructions operable in a wireless device to:

maintain a list of unusable wireless communications systems, each entry of a wireless communications system in the list of unusable wireless communications systems including avoidance criterion that is equal to a current time plus an avoidance duration time for not using the wireless communications system, wherein at least one of said unusable wireless communications systems is included on the preferred roaming list;

select a wireless communications system from a preferred roaming list of wireless communications systems;

determine whether the selected wireless communications system from the preferred roaming list is a usable wireless communications system or an unusable wireless communications system, wherein the selected wireless communications system is determined to be an unusable wireless communications system, before attempting to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system, when the selected wireless communications system is included in the list of unusable wireless communications systems and when the corresponding avoidance criterion is satisfied; and

attempt to acquire and register with the selected wireless communications system when the selected wireless communications system is determined to be a useable wireless communications system.

23. (Previously Presented) The processor readable media of claim 22, and further for storing instructions operable to:

detect a communications failure with a wireless communications system; and

add a new entry for the failed wireless communications system to the list of unusable wireless communications systems, the new entry including avoidance criterion for the failed wireless communications system.

24. (Previously Presented) The processor readable media of claim 23, and further for storing instructions operable to:

assign an avoidance duration to the detected communications failure; and

calculate an avoidance time before which the failed wireless communications system is unusable, wherein the avoidance criterion includes the avoidance time.